

Old Testament, which you sent me by the Fall River Line several days ago, came today; and I want to thank you for them, and your kind letter. I can never be grateful enough for the tokens of regard and interest that come to me so unexpectedly from friends whom I have never seen. Their pleasant words make every day of my life blossom with sweetest flowers. Will you kindly convey my grateful acknowledgments to the American Bible Society? They have lent me a helping hand when I needed it very much. I am studying the Bible in college this year and reading it with a delight that increases from day to day. Life grows richer and heaven nearer as God's great truths unfold themselves to me. With renewed thanks for your kindness, I am, sincerely yours, Hellen Keller, Cambridge, Mass Oct. 18.

The Boy With the Rope

A newspaper recently, in describing the burning of a tenement house, told how a father and two children were rescued by the quick thought and skillful hand of a boy, writes J. R. Miller. When the father and children appeared at an upper window the crowd below groaned in helpless horror; there seemed no way to reach them in time. But a lad, who had played "cowboy" in his own yard, darted away and was back in a minute with a rope, one end of which he threw in at the window. The father lowered his children and safely followed them before the roof fell.

"I knew where me mother's clothes line wuz, an' I flung it," modestly explained the young rescuer.

There are many brilliant and beautiful things that can be done if one has ample time and preparation, but the person most needed in this world of exigencies is the boy with the rope—the person quick to see the need and able to bridge it with something that lies at hand. More useful than all the lore of the schools is the knowledge of how to turn to best account the common things within reach. No matter how many great geniuses the world may hold, there will always be room for one who knows where the rope is and how to fling it.

The Mission of Laughter

It has a mission in this world, and in the next one too for that matter. Some one has said that we do not read anywhere that Jesus ever smiled. That is true, but does anyone suppose it possible that Jesus would take up little children in his arms, talk to them, bless them, and not smile? If he could do that then there surely was no human element in his life, and could there have been a divine element? It is recorded that on several occasions he wept, and we are strongly persuaded that one who can shed tears can also laugh. Have you ever seen a man who goes about with a long face, sour and morose looking, scowling and growling, and have you ever

known him to shed tears? The men and the women who shed the tears in this world are those who usually have the smile on their face. Humor has its mission. There are times when it is a great blessing to laugh, and those who have the power to make others laugh are a great blessing to them. We remember listening to a lecture entitled, "The Laughing Earthquake," by that prince of pulpit orators, Russel H. Conwell. He gave instances that came under his own observation of persons who were literally laughed from beds of sickness; at one time he was present in an insane asylum where several persons were restored to sanity of mind by a hearty laugh. Indeed there are times when the very best help that we can give to a friend is to make him laugh. The wise man talked from experience when he said, "A merry heart is good medicine." A merry laugh, a laugh that has its seat in the heart, that is not mere lip service (for one may laugh hypocritically as well as pray hypocritically), a laugh that comes from "away down," would cure many a sickly feeling, drive away the blues and bring health and merriment in their place. Is it too much to say that laughter is a duty, a Christian duty? Of course we do not find a command in the decalog which says, "Thou shalt laugh," but the Bible does enjoin joy as a duty. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit and Paul exhorts us to "rejoice always." When we speak of laughter we do not mean loud boisterous noise, but real genuine laughter, or loud smiling if you please. As such laughter should be cultivated as a Christian grace. Living close to Christ, following in all his ways, making his will our own will, fills the life with gladness and fulness of joy and puts a new song into it. We quote the following from the Canadian Churchman:

Thackeray truly remarked that the world is for each of us much as we show ourselves to the world. If we face it with a cheery acceptance, we find the world fairly full of cheerful people glad to see us. If we snarl at it and abuse it, we may be sure of abuse in return. The discontented worries of a morose person may very likely shorten his days, and the general justice of nature's arrangement provides that his early departure should entail long regrets. On the other hand, a man who can laugh keeps his health, and his friends are glad to keep him. To the perfectly healthy, laughter comes often. Too commonly, though, as childhood is left behind, the habit fails, and a half smile is the best that visits the thought-lined mouth of the modern man or woman. People become more and more burdened with the accumulations of knowledge, and with the weighing responsibilities of life, but they should still spare time to laugh. Let them never forget, moreover, and let it be a medical man's practice to remind them that "a smile sits ever serene on the face of wisdom."

Our Young People

TEMPTED AND TRIED

1 Cor. 10:13; Hebrews 2:17, 18; 4:15.

Topic for February 16.

HOME READINGS

Monday, February 10, Mastering temptation, Matt. 26:36-41.
Tuesday, February 11, The armor against sin, Ephesians 6:10-18.
Wednesday, February 12, The temptation petition, Matthew 6:9-13.
Thursday, February 13, Gain from temptation, James 1:2-14.
Friday, February 14, Don't tempt others, Romans 14:12-19.
Saturday, February 15, Christ's temptation, Matthew 4:1-11.

The problem of temptation is one with which we all have to deal. The topic will come to every one therefore with a special welcome. If it were not for temptations there would be no cross for the Christian nor would there be any exercise of virtue. But all have "the world, the flesh and the devil" to overcome and need all the help that can be gotten.

God grant that from our study of the Word we may learn how to more completely gain the victory thru him who loved us.

SCRIPTURE HELP

I. The source of temptation.

1. Not of God, James 1:13.

God is said to *try* the heart, but this is a different thing entirely from tempting a man to sin. He tried Abraham and others not that he needed to learn thus of their faithfulness but that he might use their example as an inspiration to others. 1 Corinthians 10:11.

2. The world with its low moral standards tempts us. 1 John 2:15-17.

We are not to be led by the world into its sinful ways, but are to lead the world into the Christian way.

3. The flesh has its temptations. James 1:14, Our worst foes are within. He who controls himself can overcome the world.

4. The evil one. 1 Peter 5:8.

Some people treat the devil as a joke. His havoc in the world is too pitiful to turn aside with a joke.

II. The way of escape. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

1. The way of the cross. Galatians 2:20.

There is no other way. The cross meant death to Jesus and it means death to the old man of sin in us.

We do not escape from temptation by any resolve of our own will but by getting a new heart.

2. This means not the actual getting rid of the body but an attitude of death toward its temptations. Romans 6:11. In other words it is not eradication but subjection of the body. 1 Corinthians 9:27.

The figure in this passage is very strong. It is taken from the gladiator's contest. Translated literally the passage reads: "I smite the old man under the eyes,"—that means the complete subjection of the body to the will of God.

3. The cross too, means not an escape from the world with its temptations by living a hermit life but by overcoming evil wherever we meet it. John 17:15; John 16:33; Galatians 6:14.

The world crucified Christ but Christ in another way crucified the world, and his disciples do likewise.

4. How to rout the evil one. Jas. 4:7. Whatever be our thought about his personality we need not fear him for our Helper is stronger than he.

5. All temptation is to be avoided as far as